

Claims

5 What is claimed is:

- 10 1. An aqueous tooth whitening liquid composition suitable for application to teeth in the oral cavity comprising a peroxide dispersed in an orally acceptable vehicle comprising water and a monohydric alcohol and a film forming combination of a poly(ethylene oxide) and a Carbomer.
- 15 2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the film forming poly(ethylene oxide) has a molecular weight from about 100,000 to 4,000,000.
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the poly(ethylene oxide) is present in the composition in an amount from about 5 to about 50 weight %.
- 20 4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the Carbomer is a cross-linked acrylic acid copolymer.
5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the Carbomer is present in an amount from about 0.25 to about 1.5 weight %.
- 25 6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the peroxide is urea peroxide or hydrogen peroxide.
7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the concentration of peroxide present in the composition is from about 5.0 weight % to about 30 weight %.

8. The composition of claim 1 wherein a humectant is present in the vehicle humectant.
- 5 9. The composition of claim 8 wherein humectant is present in an amount from about 3.0 weight % to about 8.0 weight %.
10. The composition of claim 1 wherein the aqueous vehicle is present in an amount from about 40 to about 70 wt. %.
- 10 11. The composition of claim 1 wherein the aqueous vehicle is a mixture of water and monohydric alcohol.
12. The composition of claim 1 wherein the pH of the composition is maintained at a pH of about 3.5 to about 5.5.
- 15 13. The composition of claim 1 wherein the pH is buffered with a buffering salt to maintain the pH.
14. A method for whitening teeth which comprises
- 20 (a) preparing a tooth whitening composition of claim 1;
- (b) painting the composition into contact with the teeth to be whitened;
- (c) maintaining the composition in contact with the teeth for plurality of minutes per day; and then,
- 25 (d) repeating steps b and c for multiple days to thereby whiten the teeth.